

REMARKS

This amendment has been timely filed within the time limits for reply under the Certificate of Mail procedure (37 C.F.R. § 1.8.) Care has been taken to comply with the latest amendment form requirements resulting from changes to 37 C.F.R. 1.121, March, 2003. One independent claim has been cancelled and one has been added so new fees are unnecessary.

The specification has been appropriately amended.

The Examiner stated that "...Claims 2, 9-11, 16, 25 and 31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims..." Said claims have been appropriately amended herein and should now be allowable.

Remaining dependent claims, now depend from an allowable independent claim, and should be allowable.

Claims 2 and 33-46 are cancelled.

New claim 47, is a rewrite of claim 1 and 16. Original claim 16 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten. No new fee is required as independent claim 33 is cancelled.

Accordingly it is believed that the amended claims conform adequately to 35 U. S. C. §112, and that they present novel and non-obvious subject matter per 35 U. S. C. §§ 102 and 103. If any issues remain to be resolved, Applicant's counsel would prefer to resolve them either via email or through a mutually convenient telephone conference. Concluding, this case should be in condition for allowance, and a timely Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

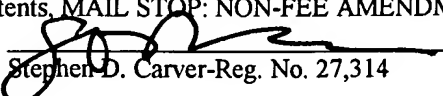


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. §1.8)

The undersigned attorney hereby certifies that the foregoing Amendment and all appurtenant enclosures, if any, is/are being deposited with the United States postal service, first class postage pre-paid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, MAIL STOP: NON-FEE AMENDMENT, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 on April 12, 2005.



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